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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
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Medical Care and Medicines

1. Medical assistance is free to everyone in Bulgaria. Patients recovering in hospitals are given examinations and medicines free, but patients recovering at home must purchase necessary medicines from the pharmacies. Health conditions are satisfactory.
2. The sale of medicines to the public is made only upon presentation of a medical receipt. Prices are relatively low, as evidenced by the following:
 - a. Aspirin, five or six stotinki per tablet, or about one leva per 20 tablets; and
 - b. Penicillin, 20 leva for a flacon of 1,000,000 universal units.
3. Almost all medicines on sale are imported. Producing countries are the Soviet Union (which supplies most of the preparations), Poland

The best quality medicines are those of the Soviet, Polish products are somewhat inferior, although their efficaciousness is almost equal.
4. Domestic production of drugs is carried out on a very limited scale. Penicillin of national production on sale in the pharmacies or used in the Bulgarian hospitals and other medical institutions bears the trade mark "Durzhavno Proizvostvo na Treivasol Penicillina Kristatum" (State Production of Treivasol--chemical composition--Crystalline Penicillin).

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Physicians

5. Doctors are assigned professional positions immediately upon graduation. For specialization, they are required to attend certain courses for a period of two or three years followed by comprehensive examinations.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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-2-

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6. Private practice is allowed, but doctors prefer to work in the hospitals because, with free medical assistance, few citizens ask for private care.
7. The government assigns newly graduated doctors to hospitals or circuits. Transfer from one hospital to another, or change of headquarters for circuit doctors, is permissible upon request only after a year from the start of service. Doctors practicing privately and wishing a hospital assignment or a circuit may request this duty. Acceptance is dependent only upon the availability of positions.

The Civilian Hospital at Pazardzhik

8. The civilian hospital at Pazardzhik consists of two buildings, one of which is of recent construction. It has approximately 100 beds. It has an internal diseases, surgical, and X-ray department and an ambulatory. 25X1
9. Dr. Atanasov has been the director of the hospital since the autumn of 1953. [redacted] The hospital employs approximately 15 doctors, as follows: 25X1
 - a. Three in the internal diseases department;
 - b. Four in the surgical department;
 - c. Three in the X-ray department; and
 - d. Four or five in the ambulatory.
10. Approximately 150 persons are employed as attendants and physical laborers.
11. Doctors serve from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. An intern earns 1,500 leva per month. Additional salary may be earned by private practice after hospital duty hours.
12. The hospital equipment is not modern, but is generally efficient. The radiological apparatus was constructed about 10 or 15 years ago. The hospital is equipped with two ambulances.
13. [redacted] the medical care at the hospital [redacted] "good." All services at the hospital, including medicines, is given to the patients free of charge. 25X1
Military troops stationed in this area receive treatment at the civilian hospital because there is no military hospital at Pazardzhik. 25X1

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